

**Town of Arlington
Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC)**

Tuesday, October 26, 2004 7:15 PM

Committee members present: Elisabeth Carr-Jones, Jeff Maxtutis, Lt. Jim McHugh, Kevin O'Brien, John Sanchez, Scott Smith, Ed Starr

Others present: Guillermo Bahamon, George Berberian, John and Joyce Lesanto, Terry Dash, Erik Moore

1. The minutes of 9/28/2004 were approved unanimously.

2. 2005 Meeting Dates

Ed Starr announced that meeting dates for 2005 would be similar to 2004; that is, on the 4th Tuesday of every month except for the 3rd Tuesday in November and the 2nd Tuesday in December. There was general agreement with this plan.

3. Public Comment

George Berberian expressed a concern about heavy oil trucks speeding on Broadway, apparently traveling through town between Chelsea and points west.

4. Symmes Subcommittee

Elisabeth Carr-Jones presented the tasks that were reviewed with Howard/Stein-Hudson on 10/21. She also noted that earlier this week

- The Redevelopment Board met. A push back in the schedule is likely.
- Members of the Symmes Neighborhood Advisory Committee (SNAC) were appointed. Terry Dash was one of the appointees.

5. Cedar/ Waverly

Jeff Maxtutis reported that he and Elisabeth Carr-Jones met with several neighbors at the site on October 2nd. He then presented his recommendations. All votes were unanimous. The plan is to bring these recommendations to the 11/8 meeting of the Board of Selectmen.

Recommendation	TAC Vote	Comment
1. Remove existing stop sign on Cedar Avenue (west) approach to Waverly Street. Install new STOP sign and pole at the corner Park Drive and Cedar Street (west). Paint new STOP line across approach. Trim branches of tree of #361 Park Avenue that fall within town right-of-way and obscure visibility.	Yes	Except for paint, these can be done in the Fall. Town-wide policy on stop-lines may warrant discussion at a future TAC meeting.
2. Install new STOP sign near Utility Pole # 88/25 on the northwest corner of Waverly Street and Cedar Avenue (facing Waverly southbound). Paint new STOP line across approach.		
3. Install new crosswalk at the intersection of Park Avenue/Cedar Avenue (west)/Waverly Street between the handicap ramps.		
4. Work with DPW to identify, test, and evaluate alternate geometric configurations that will reduce the expansive pavement width at this intersection by providing landscaped islands/channelization. These measures will 1) reduce the unprotected 110-foot pedestrian crossing distance, 2) eliminate multiple conflicting vehicle movements, and 3) be designed to act as a landscaped gateway location into the town for motorists approaching from Belmont and Route 2.		
5. Install a new STOP sign for the Renfrew Avenue approach on the existing street sign pole on the northwest corner of Renfrew Street and Cedar Avenue.	Yes	Although we believe that in general, stop signs are not needed at T intersections, this intersection has limited visibility.
6. Paint a centerline on the Renfrew Street approach for approximately 100 back from Cedar Avenue	No	Given low traffic volume, this may not be necessary
7. Replace faded one-way sign on Cedar Avenue	Yes	
8. Install new STOP signs on the two Renfrew Street approaches to Hillside Avenue.	Yes	Lt. McHugh noted that this is consistent with other intersections along Hillside Avenue

6. Downing Square

Elisabeth Carr-Jones met with Fire Department personnel. Their primary access to the area will be via Lowell Street. With the emergency turning lane from Lowell to Bow, fire truck access will not be a problem. Jeff Maxtutis reported creating a Synchro model of the intersection, and will be testing the existing configuration, an all way stop, and a northbound yield (to mimic the effect of a speed hump).

Elisabeth noted that there are at least three candidates for traffic calming in the area, but we have not developed a Town-wide policy. The discussion then shifted to one on traffic calming in general.

- One possibility for a prototype traffic calming device is the road along the bike path between Mill Street and Water Street. Lt. McHugh suggested that speeds and volumes could be measured along this road, which is essentially a parking area that receives some cut-through traffic. Scott Smith noted that some speed humps had already been installed on the privately owned road between Linwood Street and Lakehill Avenue (condos by Spy Pond).
- Scott Smith asked whether any funds would be available for traffic calming. Ed Starr noted that TAC still has some funds for an experiment.
- Jeff Maxtutis noted that he is project manager for Earthtech's contract with the City of Cambridge. He also noted that in Cambridge the decision to pursue traffic calming tends to be based on speed, safety, the reaction of the neighborhood and local politics.

7. Jason Street

Ed Starr reported on a meeting with Jason Street neighbors that was also attended by Diane Mahon. There was general agreement on a bollard by Menotomy Rocks Park. Most residents agreed with the idea of moving the crosswalk and bus stop from Norfolk Road to Woodland Street, but there was some opposition. We expect that this issue will be before the Board of Selectmen on 11/8/2004.

8. Responses to priority matrix

Before the meeting, TAC members were asked to rank current projects on a scale from 1 – 3 in terms of both safety and urgency. The top five projects were

- Route 60 / Mass Ave.
- Symmes Special Permit
- Jason/Norfolk
- Mass Corridor
- Downing Square

Jeff Maxtutis departed because of an early flight the next morning.

9. Board of Selectmen requests

The Selectmen received a request from Ed Cuoco and other Pleasant Street residents asking for a meeting to reduce the amount of commercial traffic on Pleasant Street. Ed Starr offered to draft a response to the Board

The Selectmen received a request from residents of Churchill Avenue about speeding traffic on their street. Lt. McHugh noted that measurements of speed and volumes are being made at that location.

10. Other Department News

Kevin O'Brien reported on planned developments in the area

- Summer Street / Cutter Hill – 19 dwelling units
 - Lowell Street near Reservoir – Add four houses to a 37,000 sq. ft. lot that now has one house.
 - Alewife area, near AD Little. This office project has several phases
 - Replace existing parking lot with a parking structure of similar size
 - Replace existing office building with one of similar size
 - Add more office space. Interestingly, Cambridge has asked that parking be limited to what exists today
- The Town Manager has asked that any traffic study include impacts on the intersections of Mass Ave / Route 16 and Mass Ave / Lake.
- Belmont Uplands – no decision yet.

John Sanchez reported that the Town is in the process of updating its pavement management system.

Lt. Jim McHugh reported that pedestrian signals already exist for the planned crosswalk at Mystic and Summer. Fines are now \$25 for all night parking.

11. East Arlington Parking Study

This is likely to be postponed until the spring. Scott Smith expressed the concern that without a plan to manage parking after a major snowstorm, the Town could face a significant public safety issue, due to emergency vehicle access being blocked by improperly parked vehicles.

12. Mass. Ave. Corridor

John Sanchez and Kevin O'Brien are the Town contacts for this project. We agreed that it was time to organize a kick off meeting.

13. Personal Choice

Ed Starr mentioned that all of us notice things in Arlington that we think should be fixed. He proposed that a 10-minute item on the agenda be set aside where

- Any TAC member can present (with only one presentation planned per meeting)
- The presentation must make a concrete recommendation of suggest an action to be taken that will lead to a vote.

After some discussion, we agreed to add the requirement that the item not be too close to the home of the person who is raising it (i.e. that it not be primarily to the benefit of the TAC member who is raising the issue).

14. Other discussion

Elisabeth Carr-Jones asked that TAC review school projects, in particular the Dallin School.

Kevin O'Brien offered to check whether the stockade fence at the corner of Cedar/Waverly was in zoning violation. We agreed that if this fence was in violation and created a visibility problem (see Item 5, Cedar/Waverly) it would be appropriate to bring the violation to the homeowner's attention.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 PM

Handouts:

Agenda package including agenda, plan for Symmes transportation tasks, recommendations for Jason/Norfolk, TAC priority matrix, letter regarding trucks on Pleasant Street, letter regarding speeding on Churchill Avenue, TAC decision criteria, personal choice initiative and active/planned working groups – from Ed Starr

Minutes from 9/28/2004 – from Scott Smith

Cedar/Waverly recommendations – from Jeff Maxtutis